

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Laying apparatus for cables, lines, or conductors, the laying apparatus having comprising at least a hydraulic circuit provided with comprising:  
a variable delivery feed pump for pumping oil through the hydraulic circuit, and  
with a motor, hydraulically connected to said feed pump, and able to drive laying means for laying said cables, lines, or conductors, ~~wherein~~  
~~said hydraulic circuit comprises~~  
detection means for measuring the ~~value~~ of pressure of the oil inside said hydraulic circuit and ~~to compare~~ comparing the measured pressure ~~value~~ with a pre-determined pressure value, and  
valve means, connected to said detection means, and able to act on at least one command member of said feed pump which controls delivery of the feed pump to reduce the hydraulic delivery of said feed pump in the event that the pressure measured exceeds said pre-determined pressure value.
2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said detection means and said valve means are of the electronic type and comprise respectively a sensor associated with said hydraulic circuit and connected to electronic processing means  $\pi$  and an electro-valve governed by said electronic processing means and able to be selectively driven to act on the at least one command ~~members~~ member of said feed pump to reduce the hydraulic delivery thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 2, wherein:  
said sensor is able to detect an electric signal ~~—such as tension, current or frequency,~~ that  
is correlated to the pressure ~~value~~ of the oil in the hydraulic circuit, and  
said electronic processing means ~~are able to~~ compare ~~the~~ a value of said electric signal  
with a pre-determined value ~~—~~ to determine whether the pressure threshold has been exceeded or  
not.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:  
said detection means and said valve means are of the hydraulic type, and  
~~comprise at least~~ said valve means comprises a valve able to be selectively activated to  
act on the at least one command ~~members~~ member of said feed pump to vary the hydraulic  
delivery of said feed pump.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a pre-  
loading pump ~~is associated with said circuit and is for preventing phenomena of~~ cavitation and  
sudden variations in pressure inside said hydraulic circuit.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said feed pump is of the  
reversible type ~~—~~ and is connected to said motor by two symmetrical pipes, so that each of said  
two pipes is functionable either as a delivery pipe or return pipe.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said command member is

mechanically connected to a hydraulic actuator kept in an intermediate position of balance by counteracting elastic means for balancing said actuator arranged inside respective containing chambers.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 7, wherein:  
at least one of said containing chambers is connected to said valve means, and  
the activation of said valve means ~~being able to determine~~ determines the axial displacement of said hydraulic actuator ~~and invert~~ for inverting the direction of pumping; or ~~reduce~~ reducing the hydraulic delivery  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the feed pump.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 8, ~~wherein said hydraulic piston is also able to be displaced axially by a manual command acting on~~ further comprising:

a distributor valve connected to said containing chambers that axially displaces the hydraulic actuator in accordance with a manual command, wherein

said valve means ~~being predominant with respect to~~ predominates over said distributor valve in affecting the displacement of the actuator.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 1 6, ~~wherein~~ further comprising two limit valves, ~~are~~ symmetrically located parallel to said symmetrical pipes, ~~with a safety function, able to make that recirculate~~ the oil pumped by the feed pump ~~recirculate~~ when said motor is subjected to excessive forces.

11. (Currently Amended) Laying method for cables, lines, or conductors, in an apparatus comprising at least a hydraulic circuit provided with a variable delivery feed pump and a motor connected to said feed pump to drive laying means for said cables, lines, or conductors, the method comprising:

~~a first step comprising~~ detecting with detection means ~~the value of~~ the pressure of the oil in said hydraulic circuit,

~~a second step comprising~~ comparing with comparison means said ~~value~~ detected pressure with a pre-determined threshold value, and

~~a third step comprising~~ activating valve means to act on said feed pump to reduce the hydraulic delivery of the oil to the motor thereof in the event the pressure detected exceeds the pre-determined threshold value.

12. (Currently Amended) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, ~~provided with~~ the laying machine comprising:

laying means, ~~able to~~ for simultaneously lay laying a plurality of ~~said~~ cables, lines, or conductors, comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 1, correlated in number to that of said plurality of cables, lines, or conductors simultaneously laid, to be able to regulate, in an independent, ~~and possibly differentiated~~ manner, ~~individual specific thresholds~~ each respective threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump of each of the respective laying apparatuses in the event that the respective pressure measured exceeds said respective pre-determined pressure value.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 4, wherein said command ~~member is~~  
members are mechanically connected to ~~a hydraulic an~~ actuator kept in an intermediate position  
of balance by counteracting elastic means for balancing said actuator arranged inside respective  
containing chambers.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 13, wherein:  
at least one of said containing chambers is connected to said valve means, and  
the activation of said valve means ~~being able to determine~~ determines the axial  
displacement of said hydraulic actuator ~~and invert~~ for inverting the direction of pumping; or  
~~reduce~~ reducing the hydraulic delivery; of the feed pump.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 14, ~~wherein said hydraulic piston is also~~  
~~able to be displaced axially by a manual command acting on~~ further comprising:  
a distributor valve connected to said containing chambers that axially displaces the  
actuator in accordance with a manual command, wherein  
said valve means ~~being predominant with respect to~~ predominates over said distributor  
valve in affecting the displacement of the actuator.

16. (Currently Amended) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, ~~provided with~~  
the laying machine comprising:  
second laying means ~~able to~~ for simultaneously ~~lay~~ laying a plurality of ~~said~~ cables, lines,  
or conductors; and

~~comprising~~ a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 2, correlated in number to that of said plurality of cables, lines, or conductors simultaneously laid, wherein

said second laying means regulates, to be able to regulate in an independent, ~~and possibly~~ differentiated manner, ~~an the individual specific thresholds~~ threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump of each of the respective laying apparatuses in the event that the respective pressure measured exceeds said respective pre-determined pressure value.

17. (Currently Amended) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, ~~provided with~~ the laying machine comprising:

laying means able to simultaneously lay a plurality of ~~said~~ cables, lines, or conductors comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 4, correlated in number to that of said plurality of cables, lines, or conductors simultaneously laid, to be able to regulate in an independent, ~~and possibly differentiated~~ manner, ~~the individual specific thresholds~~ each respective threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump in response to the pre-determined pressure value of each of the respective laying apparatuses.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method of claim 11 applied to a system of apparatuses that each comprise a hydraulic circuit provided with a variable delivery feed pump and a motor connected to said feed pump to drive laying means for said cables, lines, or conductors, the method further comprising:

simultaneously laying a plurality of ~~said~~ cables, lines, or conductors, and ~~to regulate~~ regulating, in an independent, ~~and possibly differentiated~~ manner, ~~the~~

~~individual specific thresholds~~ each respective threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump of each of the respective laying apparatuses in the event that the respective pressure measured exceeds said respective pre-determined pressure value.

19. (New) Apparatus as in claim 3, wherein said sensor is able to detect said electric signal, indicating an amount of tension, current or frequency, that is correlated to the pressure of the oil in the hydraulic circuit.